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EQ1806

8 November 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Contracting Officer

SUBJECT : Minicard Equipment

1. Herewith is a memorandum prepared by [ ] and [ ] which covers a number of points including their recommended list of Minicard equipment. I understand that, subject to some disagreement on the P-2 camera, this list reflects the views not only of [ ] and [ ] but also of Eastman. On this understanding, [ ] and [ ] I have approved it.

2. You will note that the estimated price of the whole list is [ ]. It is assumed that some [ ] toward this total cost will be chargeable to the AQUATONE budget leaving [ ] chargeable to an Office of Photo Interpretation (OPI) budget. This is some [ ] more than the estimate contained in the memorandum sent forward to the Director, which will be corrected to reflect this larger sum. The question of the P-2 camera remains open until we have an opportunity to review this matter with [ ].

3. Under the heading of "Unresolved Issues", the first item (requirements for positive transparencies, dup negatives, and prints) was discussed but no conclusions could be arrived at. It was our consensus that we may want as many as four or five transparencies plus three or four prints. These numbers, together with the original negative, would add up to more than the total of seven copies on which our planning has been based. The possibility of this larger requirement need not pose any financial problem since we can charge our customers for copies in excess of one. It might, however, overstrain the facility currently planned by Eastman. It will take some time before these requirements can be finally crystallized. Meanwhile, we should discover the capacity of the processing (not Minicard) equipment that is being installed by Eastman, allowing for two- or three- shift operation.

4. It has been intimated to us several times by both Messrs. [ ] that Eastman might be prepared to build and to furnish on a rental basis some or all of the Minicard equipment while retaining title in the Eastman Company. We agreed in the course of our meeting that such an arrangement would be highly desirable from the standpoint of the Agency at least for a one-year period. This could be regarded as an experimental period which we on our side would learn what volume of material we were going to have to handle, and the company on its side could modify and improve the equipment. This is a matter which should be explored definitively with them.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2012  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 3/2/12 REVIEWER: [ ]

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5. I would appreciate it if you would undertake the following three assignments in this matter:

(a) Extract from Eastman a firm proposal for the attached list (both with and without the P-2 camera). In this connection you should note that the figures for miscellaneous equipment and for systems were merely copied from earlier lists and you should also note that the cost of viewers in this list is 50 to 100 percent higher than their cost per unit in earlier lists. These matters should be clarified.

(b) Explore with Eastman the capacity and flexibility of their processing equipment to produce different positive transparencies, dup negatives, and positive prints. At a later stage, we will wish to develop a cost for each type of additional copy.

(c) Determine whether Eastman is prepared to install any or all of this equipment in Washington while retaining title to it and to charge a rental for its use for a period of one year.

25X1 (d) Arrange with Eastman for a meeting at a suitable time with [ ] to crystallize the whole plan and to settle the question of the P-2 camera.

6. As to the number of copies that will be required, I venture the opinion that few if any of our customers will wish to receive, or will be able to handle, full sets--that is, copies of all usable photography. Instead, I suggest they will wish to look at plots or other catalogues and order what they want, at retail as it were. This would reduce the burden on the Eastman facility and the cost of film but would require us to be in a position to produce positive and negative transparencies and prints promptly and in sizable numbers from the original negatives in our possession. Accordingly, I have asked [ ] to investigate the equipment that 25X1 will be required to give us this capability and then to try to estimate the cost of such equipment.

/s/ Richard M. Bissell, Jr.  
/t/ RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.  
Project Director

Attachment

cc: [ ]

25X1 RMB:gjg (7 Nov 55) Cy 1 - Fwd  
2 - [ ]  
3 - RMB Chrono  
4 - Proj Subj  
5 - Chrono  
6 - Reading

25X1 This copy: Finance

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